

**EXHIBIT B**

**DECLARATION OF CHARLES R. GIBBS**

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

In re:	§	
	§	Chapter 11
	§	
GRIDDY ENERGY LLC, <sup>1</sup>	§	Case No. 21-30923 (MI)
	§	
	§	
Debtor.	§	
	§	

**DECLARATION OF CHARLES R. GIBBS**

I, Charles R. Gibbs, hereby declare that the following statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge after due inquiry as described herein:

1. I am an attorney at law admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Texas, the United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas and the United States Courts of Appeals for the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh Circuits. I am a partner of the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP (“McDermott”), which maintains offices at, among other places, 2501 North Harwood Street, Suite 1900, Dallas, Texas 75201.

2. I am familiar with the matters set forth herein and make this declaration in support of the *Application of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of McDermott Will & Emery LLP as Counsel Effective as of April 5, 2021* (the “Application”).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The last four digits of its federal tax identification number of the Debtor are 1396. The mailing address for the Debtor is PO Box 1288, Green Farms, CT 06838.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application.

3. On March 31, 2021, the Office of the United States Trustee for Region 7 appointed a three-member Committee consisting of: (i) Holland O'Neill; (ii) Ty Williams; and (iii) Lisa Khoury.<sup>3</sup>

4. On April 5, 2021, the Committee selected McDermott as its counsel.

5. McDermott began rendering services to the Committee immediately following its selection by the Committee.

#### **MCDERMOTT'S DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES**

6. To prepare this declaration, I, or someone under my supervision, reviewed the names set forth on a list of parties in interest identified by the Debtor. From this list, McDermott created a search list (the "Search List") of relevant parties consistent with the U.S. Trustee's requirements, a copy of which is attached hereto as Schedule 1. McDermott then compared the Search List with the information contained in the conflict check systems and indexes of adverse parties currently maintained by McDermott (the "Conflict System").

7. The Conflict System is designed to include every matter on which the firm is now or has been engaged over the last approximately twenty (20) years, sorted by the entity that has engaged the firm and, in each instance, listing the identity of the clients, related parties and adverse parties, and the attorneys in the firm who are knowledgeable about each matter. It is McDermott's policy that a new matter may be opened within the firm only after completing and submitting, to those charged with maintaining the Conflict System, the information necessary to check each such matter for conflicts, including the identity of the prospective client and related adverse parties. McDermott maintains and systematically updates the Conflict System in the regular course of the firm's business, and it is the regular practice of the firm to make and maintain these records.

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<sup>3</sup> ECF No. 116.

8. Further, an e-mail was sent to each attorney at McDermott to verify whether any such attorney (a) has a connection to (i) the Debtor, or (ii) current and former directors or officers of the Debtor; or (b) is a relative of (i) any of the Judges of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas, or (ii) any members of the Houston Office of the Office of the United States Trustee for Region 7.

**MCDERMOTT'S CONNECTIONS WITH PARTIES IN  
INTEREST IN MATTERS UNRELATED TO THIS CHAPTER 11 CASE**

9. I, or a person under my supervision, reviewed any client connections to this Case to determine whether McDermott has an adverse interest to the Debtor's estate. McDermott ran the names of all parties in interest on Schedule 1 hereto through its Conflict System, and McDermott does not represent, or have any other connection with, any of the parties in interest listed on Schedule 1, subject to the disclosures set forth on Schedule 2, which is incorporated herein by reference.

10. McDermott's conflict search resulted in the disclosures set forth on Schedule 2 to the Gibbs Declaration. The Committee is aware that McDermott has previously represented or currently represents certain creditors or parties in interest and/or their affiliates in matters unrelated to the Debtor and, unless noted otherwise, this Case.

11. To the best of my knowledge and information, the annual fees for each of the last three years paid to McDermott by any party on Schedule 1 or its affiliates did not exceed 1% of McDermott's annual gross revenue. To the extent that issues arise that would cause the Committee to be adverse to any of McDermott's clients such that it would not be appropriate for McDermott to represent the Committee with respect to any such matters, the Committee will retain conflicts counsel to represent the Committee with respect to those matters.

12. In addition to the disclosures set forth on Schedule 2 and in the preceding paragraph, the Committee is aware that McDermott currently represents certain affiliates of Macquarie Investments and Macquarie Energy LLC (“Macquarie”) and EDF Trading North America LLC (“EDF”) in matters unrelated to the Debtor.

13. I believe the connections disclosed on Schedule 2 and herein have not and will not affect McDermott’s representation of the Committee in this Chapter 11 Case. McDermott’s representation of these parties does not comprise a material component of McDermott’s practice, nor does McDermott currently represent such parties on any issue relating to the Debtor.

14. McDermott does not currently directly represent the Debtor or any of its affiliates, partners or subsidiaries in this Case, and McDermott will not undertake the representation of the Debtor or any related entity during this engagement.

15. Based upon the information available to me, McDermott is a “disinterested person,” as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, and neither represents nor holds an interest materially adverse to the interests of the Committee, the Debtor, or its estate with respect to the matters on which McDermott is to be employed. To the extent McDermott discovers any connection with any party or enters into any new relationship with any party that otherwise would have been required to be disclosed in this Application, McDermott will promptly supplement its disclosures to the Court.

16. Insofar as I have been able to ascertain, neither I, McDermott, nor any McDermott attorneys:

- (a) are creditors, equity security holders, or insiders of the Debtor;
- (b) are, or were within two years before the date of the filing of the petition, a director, officer, or employee of the Debtor; or
- (c) have an interest materially adverse to the interests of the estates or of any class of creditors or equity security holders, by reason of any direct or

indirect relationship to, connection with or interest in the Debtor or for any other reason.

17. Except as otherwise set forth herein, insofar as I have been able to ascertain, the partners, counsel, and associates of McDermott do not have any connection with the Debtor, the Debtor's officers and directors, the Debtor's creditors, the Debtor's equity security holders, and other known parties in interest or their respective attorneys and accountants, or the members of the Committee. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, neither I, nor any partner, employee counsel, or associate of McDermott, insofar as I have been able to ascertain, is related to the bankruptcy judge assigned to this Chapter 11 Case.

#### **MCDERMOTT'S RATES AND BILLING PRACTICES**

18. No promises have been received by McDermott or any McDermott attorney as to payment or compensation in connection with this Chapter 11 Case other than in accordance with the provisions set forth herein. McDermott has no agreement with any other entity to share with such entity any compensation received by McDermott or by such entity.

19. McDermott intends to apply to this Court for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, the U.S. Trustee Guidelines and any further orders of this Court for all services performed and expenses incurred since April 5, 2021. McDermott expressly reserves the right to seek compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses incurred by defending challenge(s) to this Application and/or any fee applications filed by McDermott in this Chapter 11 Case.

20. McDermott's standard hourly rates for attorneys that may work on this matter, subject to adjustment annually in January to reflect economic and other conditions, are as set forth below:

<b>Title</b>	<b>2021 Rates</b>
Partners	\$945 - \$1,575
Associates	\$580 - \$960
Non-lawyer Professionals	\$70 - \$1,080

21. McDermott has agreed to a capped blended hourly rate of \$850.00 per hour. At the conclusion of this engagement, McDermott will calculate the actual weighted blended hourly rate of all timekeepers. If that rate exceeds \$850.00 per hour, McDermott will discount its fees in an amount necessary such that the rate is not greater than \$850.00 per hour. McDermott may be asked to commence one or more causes of action against third parties during the Case or on behalf of a Plan Administrator or Creditor Trust that may ultimately be established under a plan of liquidation confirmed in the Case. For all such causes of action that McDermott pursues, McDermott will be entitled to its hourly fees (subject to the weighted blended hourly rate cap of \$850.00 per hour) *plus* 13% of any recoveries obtained in such causes of action. McDermott has advised the Committee that the hourly rates set forth above are subject to annual increases in the normal course of McDermott's business. In the event of any such increase, McDermott will provide the U.S. Trustee and the Committee with written notice of any such increase and file a supplemental affidavit (a "Supplemental Affidavit") with the Court.

22. The Application requests, pursuant to section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, approval of the Committee's retention of McDermott as its counsel. The hourly rates set forth above and in the Application are the firm's standard hourly rates for work of this nature. The firm's standard rates are set at a level designed to compensate the firm fairly for the work of its attorneys and paralegals and to cover fixed and routine overhead expenses.

23. McDermott will charge for expenses in a manner and at rates consistent with charges made generally to its other clients in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code, the

Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Bankruptcy Rules, the U.S. Trustee Guidelines and any other applicable orders of this Court. Such expenses include, among other things, long-distance telephone, fax (outgoing only) not exceeding \$0.25 per page, mail and express mail charges, special or hand delivery charges, photocopying charges at the rate of \$0.10 per page for black and white copies, travel expenses, expenses for computerized research, and transcription costs.

24. The foregoing constitutes the verified statement of the person to be employed, required under Rule 2014 of the Bankruptcy Rules.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed on April 26, 2021

/s/ Charles R. Gibbs

Charles R. Gibbs



**SCHEDULE 1**

**LIST OF INTERESTED PARTIES**

**Debtor**

Griddy Energy LLC

**5% of More Direct Equity Holders**

Griddy Holdings LC

**Affiliates and/or Indirect Equity Holders**

Beachside New Utility Holdings LLC

EDF Trading North America LLC

Elliott New Utility Holdings LLC

Grid Investments Inc.

Griddy 6 Holdings LLC

Griddy VI Holdings LLC

Griddy VI Intermediate Holdings LLC

Griddy VI Series A Holdings LLC

Gridy Pro LLC

Griddy Technologies LLC

Janson New Utility Holdings LLC

Niab Holdings Pty Limited

SRA Investments Pty Limited

**Bankruptcy Judges**

The Honorable Marvin Isgur

The Honorable David R. Jones

The Honorable Christopher M. Lopez

The Honorable Jeffrey P Norman

The Honorable Eduardo V. Rodriguez

**Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents**

Macquarie Investments UC Inc.

Macquarie Energy LLC

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

**Contract Counter-Parties**

AEP Texas Inc. d/b/a AEP Texas

Bevan, Mosca & Giuditta, P.C.

Bill.com

CCH Incorporated

CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC  
Crestline Solutions, LLC  
CT Corporation Staffing, Inc.  
EDF Trading North America, LLC  
Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)  
Energy Services Group, LLC  
Griddy Holdings LLC  
Griddy Technologies LLC  
Iterable, Inc.  
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
Macquarie Energy LLC  
Meridian Business Centers – Southwest Partners, LP  
PSA Consulting, LLC  
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC  
S4S, LLC  
Scottsdale Insurance Company  
Stevens & Lee Lawyers & Consultants  
Stripe, Inc.  
Texas-New Mexico Power Company  
William L. Gault Trustee of the Howard W. Gault Trust U/A dated January 27, 1969

**Director of Parent Company/Officer - Current**

Paul Aronzon  
Nick Bain  
Roop Bhullar  
Gregory L. Craig  
Michael Fallquist  
Christian McArthur

**Director of Parent Company/Officer - Former**

Eduardo Brasao da Fonseca  
Davis Cass

**Governmental/Regulatory Agencies**

Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)  
Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)  
U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

**Insurance Providers and Related Parties**

Aon Risk Services Central Inc.  
Aon Risk Services Southwest Inc.

AXIS Insurance Company  
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies  
ERisk Services, LLC  
Hartford Fire Insurance Company  
Lockton Companies, LLC – Los Angeles  
Scottsdale Insurance Company  
The Hartford  
Trumbull Insurance Company

**Landlords**

Hartman SPE LLC  
Meridian Business Centers-Southwest Partners LP  
William L. Gault, Trustee of the Howard W. Gault Trust U/A dated January 27, 1969

**Key Vendors**

AEP Texas Central Company  
Alex Liu  
Amazon Web Services  
AON Risk Services  
Facebook  
Kellerhals Ferguson Krobin PLLC  
Scott PLLC  
TriNet HR III, Inc.  
Within, LLP

**Parties Relating to Known Litigation Matters Involving the Debtor-Litigation**

Charles Huppert  
Lisa Khoury, et al.  
Texas Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division  
The State of Texas  
Thomas Ramer Clark

**Counsel to Parties Relating to Known Litigation Matters Involving the Debtor-Litigation**

Burnett Law Firm  
Potts Law Firm  
Tow & Koenig PLLC

**Ordinary Course Professionals**

Amy Stewart PC  
Miguel A. Huerta, PLLC  
Sitrick Group, LLC

Windes, Inc.

**Professionals**

Baker Botts L.L.P.

Bankruptcy Management Solutions, Inc. (d/b/a Stretto)

**Taxing Authorities**

Department of Treasury – Internal Revenue Service

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

**Top 30 Creditors**

AEP Texas Inc.

Alpha Employment Solutions

CCH Incorporated

CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

Energy Services Group

ERCOT

FloQast, Inc.

Hartman Income REIT Management

Lisa Khoury, et al.

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC

Public Utility Commission of Texas investigations

RLI Insurance

S4S, LC

Star Energy Partners

Stripe, Inc.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Texas Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division

Texas-New Mexico Power Company

The State of Texas

William Gault, Trustee of the Howard Gault Trust

**U.S. Trustee's Office**

Kenneth M. Epstein

Millie Sall

Alicia Barcomb

Jacqueline Boykin

Michael J. Bujold

Luci Johnson-Davis

Hector Duran

Barbara Griffin

Luci Johnson-Davis

Linda Motton  
Ha Nguyen  
Glenn Otto  
Jayson B. Ruff  
Patricia Schmidt  
Christy Simmons  
Gwen Smith  
Stephen Statham  
Clarissa Waxton  
Jana Whitworth

**Utility Providers**

Optimum

**Parties that have filed a Notice of Appearance in the case and are not listed in another category<sup>1</sup>**

Bernice William  
Harris County, Texas  
Luminant Energy Company LLC

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<sup>1</sup> As of April 1, 2021.

**SCHEDULE 2****DISCLOSURES TO MCDERMOTT RETENTION APPLICATION**

1. McDermott currently represents or has represented the following creditors, equity holders, parties-in-interest and/or their affiliates in the last three years on various matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor.

<b>Matched Entity</b>	<b>Relationship to Debtor</b>	<b>Relationship to McDermott</b>
American Electric Power Service	Key Vendor/Contract Counter-Parties/Top 30 Creditors	Current Client
Amazon.com	Key Vendors	Current Client
AON Corporation	Insurance Provider and Related Parties/Key Vendor	Current Client
AON Investments USA, Inc.	Insurance Provider and Related Parties/Key Vendor	Current Client
AXIS Specialty U.S. Services, Inc.	Insurance Provider and Related Parties	Current Client
AXIS Specialty Limited	Insurance Provider and Related Parties	Current Client
AXIS Managing Agency Ltd	Insurance Provider and Related Parties	Current Client
Bank One	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Former Client
Bear Stearns & Co., Inc.	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Former Client
Calpine Corporation	Parties that have filed a notice of appearance in the case and are not listed in another category	Current Client
Chubb Group Holdings Inc.	Insurance Provider and Related Parties	Current Client
Chubb Bermuda Insurance Limited	Insurance Provider and Related Parties	Current Client
EDF Trading North America LLC	Affiliate/Indirect Equity Holder of the Debtor	Affiliate of Current Client

Eduardo Brasco Da Fonseca and Aline Mary	Director of Parent Company/Officer- Former	Current Client
Facebook	Key Vendors	Current Client
Haven Healthcare	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties/Key Vendor	Current Client
Highbridge Capital Management, LLC	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Closed Client
JP Morgan Chase	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Current Client
JP Morgan Chase Bank	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Current Client
JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A.	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Current Client
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Closed Client
J.P. Morgan Trust Company (Bahamas) Limit	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents/Contract Counter-Parties	Current Client
J.P. Morgan as Trustee Of the Campbell Trust	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents Contract Counter-Parties	Former Client
Macquarie Energy LLC	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents	Affiliate of Current Client
Macquarie Investments	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents	Affiliate of Current Client
Wolters Kluwer	Contract Counter-Parties/Top 30 Creditors	Current Client
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company	Insurance Providers and Related Parties	Current Client
TriNet Group, Inc.	Key Vendors	Closed Client
Albert and Jane Wohlers	Banks/Lenders/LOCs/Administrative Agents Contract Counter-Parties	Former Client